about Rs. 307 lakhs. Government is providing non-plan assistance to IDPL for payment of salaries.

Financial assistance for fertiliser transportation

3662. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received from Himachal Pradesh for special financial assistance on fertiliser transportation in the State on the pattern of Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States;

(b) whether these requests also include the Union Government to meet the extra cost of transportation of de-controlled fertilisers in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken, with latest position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. In pursuance of the request of Himachal Pradesh State Government, the Government of India has decided to extend the scheme for providing additional freight support on transportation of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers to Himachal Pradesh. The quantum of freight support is being decided in consultation with the State Government. In respect of urea, the freight subsidy is being provided to the State of Himachal Pradesh like others under the equated freight scheme. There is no decision to change it.

Development and use of Bio-Fertilizers in Tripura

3663. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sanction Rs. 18.50 lacs from National Project and Technology Mission on Development and use of bio-fertilizers for strengthening bio-fertilizer production unit in Tripura, as submitted by Government of Tripura;

(b) if so, by when it would be sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Government of Tripura had submitted a project proposal of Rs. 18.5 lakh for strengthening of the